SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: You can discuss anything. *(Interruptions)*... I have a right. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: It is my question. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Question No. 461. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: It is my question. *(Interruptions)*... I have a right. *(Interruptions)*... It is my question. *(Interruptions)*... It is my question. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. *(Interruptions)*... आप बैठ जाइए, प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: It is my question. *(Interruptions)*... I have a right. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Yes, I have a question. You can ask after Question Hour. *(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति: आजमी साहब, आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. *(Interruptions)*... Will you please sit down? *(Interruptions)*... Please don't interrupt. Let me please. *(Interruptions)*.: प्लीज, प्लीज। ...(व्यवधान)... आप जरा खामोश रहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज, आप जरा खामोश रहिए, आप बात सुन लीजिए। Let me make the position very clear. We are talking of yesterday, the 24th of April. Nobody was punished. Nobody was castigated. Nobody was condemned. All that happened was that pursuant to a Rule of this House, which has been in existence for, I believe, a long period of time, which has not been modified, changed or rescinded, the attention of an hon. Member was drawn to that Rule and the hon. Member complied with the Rule. That is all that happened. There was no condemnation of anybody. The day is over. The matter is over. May I now request that we proceed with the question?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Proposal to take over Nilachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.

*461. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India is proposing to take over the Nilachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Duburi, Orissa which was a joint venture of MMTC and the Government of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The acquisition and the merger of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) was recommended by the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) in its meeting held on 14.07.2005. Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited located at Duburi, Orissa is a public limited company whose shares are jointly held by MMTC Limited, Industrial Promotion Investment Corporation of

Orissa Limited (IPICOL), Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and other minority shareholders including banks and financial institutions

(b) As per the decision of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) taken during its meeting on 14 07 2005, a Committee was constituted, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Disinvestment with members from Ministry of Steel, Department of Commerce, Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa, Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), MMTC Limited, Managing Director (MD), NINL and Joint Secretary (Steel) as the member-convener The Committee had so far held four meeting on dates 21 02 2006, 06 03 2006, 09 08 2006 and 05 09 2007 In accordance of the decision of this Committee taken during its third meeting on 09 08 2006, a selection committee consisting of representatives from MMTC, SAIL and NINL finalized appointment of M/s IDBI Limited as merchant banker to valuate NINL's shares The valuation report submitted by IDBI was discussed in the 4th meeting of the appointed Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Disinvestment) on 05 09 2007, during which M/s IDBI also made a detailed presentation on the modalities adopted by it for valuation of NINL shares The weighted average value of NINL shares has been arrived at Rs 27 62 by M/s IDBI

However, during the meeting on 05 09 2007 Government of Orissa and MMTC both expressed their reservation on the valuation of NINL shares arrived at by M/s IDBI, which was later confirmed by them in writing

To resolve the issue further a meeting was convened by Commerce Secretary on 09 04 2008 attended by Secretary (Steel), Secretary (Steel & Mines), Government of Orissa, Chairman, SAIL and CMD, MMTC Limited It has been decided that within seven days SAIL and MMTC Limited would suggest three names each for being appointed as independent valuer to re-assess the value of NINL shares Secretary (Steel) and Commerce Secretary would further decide on appointment of the mutually agreed investment banker to work out the valuation of NINL On completion of these processes, a final decision in the matter would be taken by the Cabinet

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA Mr Chairman, Sir the Neelachal Ispat Nigam located at Duburi, Orissa, was started in the beginning of 1901-92 Subsequently, it had a joint venture with the State Government, MMTC OMC and some other shareholders Discussions for acquisition and merger of the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd were held on 14 07 2005 The Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Disinvestments sat for four times but could not take a concrete decision Now the State Government is again arguing for the revaluation of the factory after four years The valuation was done by the IDBI

MR CHAIRMAN What is the question?

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA which is one of the reputed financial institutions I would like to know whether there could be any other finnacial institution which is better than the IDBI At present the value of the share of the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd is Rs 26/- SAIL is prepared to give them the same value The value of the share of SAIL is Rs 174 Even if there is a change in the valuation, it will have not effect If SAIL is prepared to give them the same value, why is the State Government not accepting it and the merger is not being done?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: सभापति जी, जो एमएमटीसी का शेयर है, वह है 49 78 परसेंट और उडीसा गवर्नमेंट का जो शेयर है, वह है 26 29 परसेंट। अगर दोनो को, 50 और 26 को मिलाकर देख ले, तो करीब-करीब 76 परसेंट हो जाता है। एमएमटीसी और उड़ीसा की जो गवर्नमेंट है, ये वेल्यूएशन के खिलाफ हैं। यह बात सही है कि आईडीबीआई ने जो उस समय वेल्यूएशन किया था, उसमे दोनों की सहमति से इनको वेल्यू असेसमेंट करने के लिए कहा गया था, लेकिन बाद मे दोनों ने विरोध कर दिया और उसी के कारण मामला रूका हुआ है। अब जो है, सेक्रेटरी कॉमर्स, सक्रेटरी स्टील, एमएमटीसी, वगैरह के बीच में मीटिंग हुई है और उसमे यह तय हुआ है कि SAIL और MMTC, ये दोनों साथ-साथ मिलकर सात दिन के अदर तीन-तीन नाम दें और उन तीन नामो में से, जो भी दोनो की तरफ से सुझाव आएगे, उनको जिम्मेवारी दी जाएगी। SAIL ने अपना नाम IDBI, IFCI, SBI के रूप में दिए हैं और MMTC ने NNY और KPMG के रूप मे दिया है। इन पाच नामों में एक को चुनना है और उसके बाद

जिस नाम पर आम सहमति होगी, उसको इवेल्युएशन की जिम्मेवारी दी जाएगी। माननीय सदस्य जो कह रहे हैं, मैं उनकी भावना से सहमत हूं, SAIL ने बोर्ड में अपना प्रस्ताव पास कर लिया है। हम SAIL को एक बड़ी कम्पनी के रूप में देखना चाहते हैं और हम चाहते हैं कि जल्द से जल्द नीलाचल का merger SAIL में हो जाए।

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, I want to know whether there is an agreement of 12th April, 1994 between the Government of India and the Government of Orissa, according to which, if they cannot produce steel within five years, the SAIL can take it over. I also want to know whether it is a fact, if this unit, which has no expansion programme, is not provided the steel melting system which requires Rs. 1500 crores, it will incur losses and, ultimately, it may become sick in a few years. I want a specific answer from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Orissa is delaying the merger deliberately and whether, as per the agreement signed in 1994, the SAIL can take over the unit immediately and invest funds so that expansion can be done in time and the unit becomes viable.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: सर, जैसा कि मैंने बतलाया है कि उड़ीसा गवर्नमेंट का शेयर केवल 26.29 परसैंट है, MMTC के शेयर 49 परसैंट है, लेकिन यह विरोध दोनों के माध्यम से हो रहा है। कल मैंने उनके अधिकारियों को बुलाया था और उनसे हमने आग्रह भी किया था कि अगली बार, जिसको इवेल्युशन के लिए एप्वाइंट किया जाए, उस पर दोनों को कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिए। इसलिए, जहां तक मेजॉरिटी का सवाल है, मेजॉरिटी शेयर होल्डर्स को जब तक अपने अधीन नहीं लिया जाएगा, तब तक आप कैसे कर सकते हैं।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अधिग्रहण के बारे में जो कहा है, मैं समझता हूं कि वे उसे कार्यान्वित करेंगे।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, SAIL और Bharat Refractories Limited, का इसी प्रकार का मामला माननीय मंत्री जी के संज्ञान में लाया गया था। इसमें लगातार घाटा हो रहा है और यदि इसका SAIL में विलय हो जाता है तो कम से कम Bharat Refractories Limtied, जो पूरी दुनिया में Refractories Plant के क्षेत्र में अपना एक स्थान रखता है और जिसे केन्द्र सरकार हर वर्ष काफी धनराशि देती है, विलय से एक सक्षम यूनिट हो जाएगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस अधिग्रहण के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करके एक निर्णय लेंगे, ताकि Bharat Refractories Limited के जितने भी कर्मचारी काम कर रहे हैं, जिसे केन्द्र सरकार हर वर्ष काफी धनराशि देती है, विलय से वह एक सक्षम यूनिट हो जाएगा और SAIL के अंतर्गत आ जाएगा? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या इस दिशा में कुछ कार्रवाई करेंगे?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: सर, यह बात सही है कि BRL—Bharat Refractories Limited की 1974 में स्थापना हुई थी ओर जब से इसकी स्थापना हुई थी, तब से वह घाटे में चल रहा है और तीन बार इसके पुनरुद्धार की कोशिश की गई, लेकिन यह अभी भी घाटे में चल रहा है। इस संबंध में BRPSC ने भी प्रस्ताव पास किया, जो CoS है, कमिटी ऑफ सैक्रेट्रीज है, इन लोगों ने भी सिफारिश की थी कि इसका SAIL अधिग्रहण कर ले। हम इस मामले को केबिनेट में ले गए थे, कुछ आब्जेक्शंस थे, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य को मुझे यह बतलाते हुए खुशी हो रही है कि कल ही केबिनेट की बैठक हुई है और केबिनेट की उस बैठक में यह प्रस्ताव ले लिया गया है कि BRL का SAIL में merger कर दिया जाएगा, SAIL इसको ले लेगी।

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this point. Sir, just now the hon. Minister has told that as per the shareholding pattern in the Nilaehal Ispat Nigam Limited, the major part is with the Central Government, if we take the MMTC and the NMDC together. Despite that, just because the objection of a minority section of the shareholdrs, how is the merger not taking place? Even after the IDBI has made the valuation, which is an established and recognised institution for this valuation process, why is the Government of India allowing such delay and red-tapism in quickening the process of merger of the Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited with the SAIL? That merger is important for the survival and the turnaround of the Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited also. It is more in the interest of the Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited than in the interest of the SAIL. The Majority shareholding is still controlled by the Central Government agencies, then, why is this delay taking place?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: सभापति जी, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अलग-अलग मंत्रालय हैं, अलग-अलग विभाग हैं ...(व्यवधान)

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: सर, लेकिन गवर्नमेंट तो एक ही है, it is a collective responsibility.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: सभापति जी, जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि हम शुरु से ही चाहते हैं कि SAIL को हम एक बड़ी कंपनी के रूप में उभारें और आपको मालूम हो कि IISCO का merger हमने SAIL के साथ कर दिया और झटके में कर दिया, यह सबसे बड़ा काम था, वह कंपनी बंद होने वाली थी, लेकिन हमने उसका merger कर दिया और हम 10,000 करोड़ रुपए उसके विकास पर खर्च कर रहे हैं। जैसा हमने कहा कि BRL का merger हमने कर दिया है, MEL का merger का प्रस्ताव SAIL ने अपने तरीके से पास कर लिया है, एक Steel Complex Limited है, केरल में, उसका प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है, पश्चिम बंगाल में NISCO का भी है, ये सारे प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन हैं। SAIL ने अपनी तरफ से प्रस्ताव पास कर दिया कि हम इसका merger चाहते हैं, लेकिन अगर सरकार के किसी विभाग को या राज्य सरकार को इस पर आपत्ति है, तो उस आपत्ति का जब तक आप समाधान नहीं करेंगे, तब तक यह काम नहीं हो सकता है, पार्लियामेंटरी डेमोक्रेसी तो यही होती है, और क्या होती है? इसलिए हम लोग इस ओर प्रयत्नशील हैं और हमारी हार्दिक इच्छा है कि इसका merger हो। हमने इस मामले को गंभीरता से लिया है और हम चाहेंगे कि जल्दी से जल्दी NINL का merger SAIL में हो जाए।

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: इसमें भी एक झटके की जरूरत है।

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I am told that the SAIL has a plan to invest something like Rs. 12,300 crores in order to increase the capacity of Nilachal Ispat Nigam Limited to 3.5 million tonnes by 2010. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is really serious about it, and if it is so, what is the plan that he has got for the next two-three years?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How can I disclose all these things, at this moment, when there is no merger? Once the merger takes place, then, I will be able to answer this question.

*462. [The questioners (Shri Dara Singh and Shri Ramdas Agarwal) were absent. For answer *vide* page 24 *infra*.]

*463. [The questioner (Shri Kalraj Mishra) was absent. For answer *vide* page 24 *infra*.]

*464. [The questioners (Shri Rudra Narayan Pany and Shri Mahmood A. Madani) were absent. For answer *vide* page 26 *infra*.]

Need for review of Pulse Polio Programme

*465. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pulse Polio Programme needs a review in view of the cases reported in the first two months of the year 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported in States; and

(c) what concrete action Government is taking to fulfil its promise of total eradication of polio?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on th Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) National Polio Eradication Programme is reviewed bi-annually by the India Expert Advisory Group on polio (IEAG) comprising of National and International Experts from World Health Organization (WHO), United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Atlanta. The last review was undertaken on 19-20th December, 2007.

The number of polio cases reported in the first two months of the year are the tail end of 2007 outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The number of cases reported in the first two months are 163 out